

Tropical Cyclone 05A

TC 05A formed in the Arabian Sea west of the Laccadive Islands in mid-October. The system tracked east, then northeast and made landfall at Gujarat, India as a 30 kt system. TC 05A was a minimal tropical cyclone with a peak intensity of 35 kt.

TC 05A began as a weak area of low pressure drifting slowly toward India. A TCFA was issued at 150900Z October, based on an ERS-2 scatterometer pass indicating 25 kt winds associated with the low-level circulation center. Despite moderate vertical wind shear limiting the organization of significant deep convection, JTWC issued the first warning at 160300Z October, based on a second scatterometer pass indicating winds of 35 kt.

Vertical wind shear over the tropical cyclone continued to inhibit further development as the system tracked northeast and accelerated slightly in response to environmental steering provided by mid-level ridging to the south. Although TC 05A was tracking toward the same area of India devastated in June by TC 03A, strong vertical wind shear dissipated most of the deep convection reducing the cyclone's intensity. Maximum sustained winds at landfall were 30 kt. JTWC issued its fifth and final warning at 180300Z October as the cyclone dissipated over land.

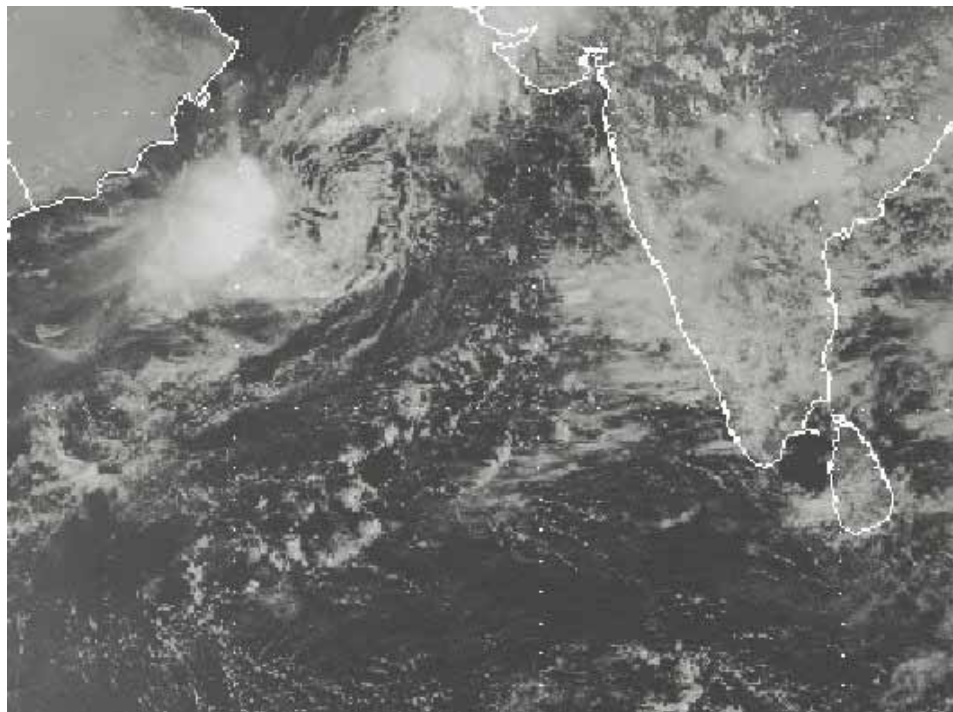


Figure 3-05A-1. An 100000Z Meteosat-5 visible image shows TC 05A under the influence of vertical wind shear on the 15th of October, 1998.

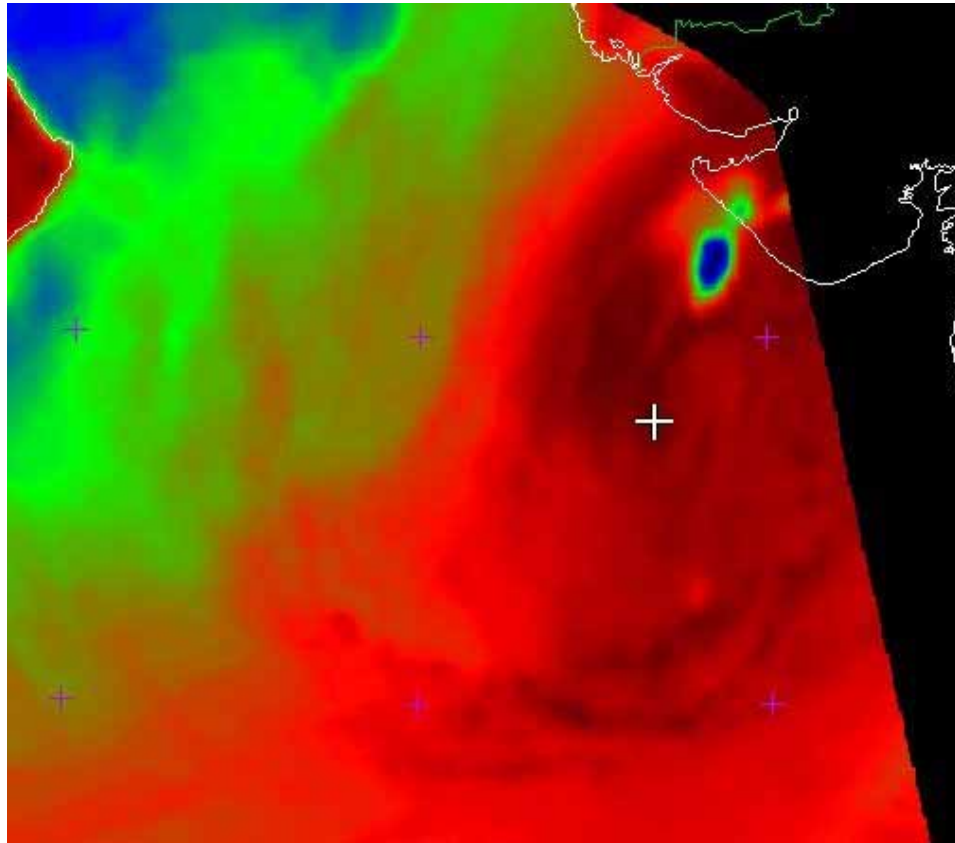


Figure 3-05A-2. A 130700Z microwave image of TC 05A southwest of the northwestern India on the 16th of October, 1998.

